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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Moriguchi et al. ATTY. DOCKET NO.: 112857-034  
SERIAL NO: 09/292,834 GROUP ART UNIT: 1754  
FILED: April 16, 1999 EXAMINER: S. Hendrickson  
INVENTION: GRAPHITE POWDERS SUITED FOR NEGATIVE ELECTRODE  
MATERIAL OF LITHIUM ION SECONDARY BATTERY

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment in the above-identified patent application.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 4 and 5 as follows:

4. (Thrice Amended) A method for producing a graphite powder containing an amount of boron according to claim 1 comprising:

pulverizing a carbon material at an elevated speed before and/or after carbonization; and

heat-treating the carbon material at a temperature exceeding 1500°C for graphization wherein a boron compound is added to the carbon material prior to graphization.

5. (Thrice Amended) A method for producing a graphite powder containing an amount of boron according to claim 1 comprising:

pulverizing a carbon material before and/or after carbonization;

heat-treating the carbon material at a temperature exceeding 1500°C for graphization wherein a boron compound is added to the carbon material prior to graphization;

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